

St. Stephen Parish

6300 Browning Road - Pennsauken, NJ 08109



Pastoral Staff

Reverend Vincent Orum, A.J., Administrator
Reverend Thomas Kiely, In-Residence
Permanent Deacon Ernest Picknally
Sister Bernadette Mary Leahy, S.S.J.

Parish Contact Information

Rectory: (856) 662-9338 Fax: (856) 662-4679
Convent: (856) 665-5227 School: (856) 662-5935

Email: ecclesia@comcast.net

Website: www.StStephensPennsauken.com

March 8, 2009 – Second Sunday of Lent

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday thru Saturday – 9:00am

Weekend Obligation:

Saturday – 4:30pm

Sunday – 9:00am & 10:30am

Children's Liturgy: 3rd Sunday @ 10:30am

Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm – 7:00pm Vigil

Miraculous Medal Novena – Every Thursday after 9am Mass.

Eucharistic Exposition – First Friday from 9:30am-7pm.

Baptism – Call the Rectory for arrangements.

Required Preparation is 1 class, 2nd Sunday @ Noon.

Baptism – 3rd Sunday of month @ Noon.

Reconciliation – Saturday from 3:45pm-4:15pm

Seasonal Services are announced in bulletin.

Anointing of the Sick/Eucharist

Call Rectory if someone is sick or housebound.

Marriage – arrangements must be made with a priest.

Only individually registered parishioners of one year or more are eligible to be married here. This includes anyone still living at home with parents who should register individually.

Rectory Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9am-4:30pm

Our Mission Statement

Saint Stephen Parish is a Catholic Faith Community called by God through Baptism. Our mission is to live the Gospel by loving and serving all our brothers and sisters.

Parish Membership – Moving INTO the parish all are asked to register as soon as possible.
Moving WITHIN or OUT – kindly notify rectory of changes.

Please consider remembering St. Stephen's in your Will or Estate Planning. There are financial benefits to do so while still alive and, in death, the spiritual reward of helping to continue the Church's mission of preaching Jesus Christ.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Anyone interested in becoming Catholic is invited to become part of the RCIA. This process begins with a journey of faith that culminates in full communion with the Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This process is open to those who are not baptized, to those who have been baptized in other Christian denominations, or to baptized Catholics who have never received catechetical instruction or received Confirmation and First Communion. Further information is available by calling the Rectory.

Our Parish Family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life.



Family or Friends having a Mass celebrated for a loved one are encouraged to participate by bringing the gifts of bread and wine to the Priest at Mass. Please be in the church 10 minutes prior to Mass and identify yourselves to one of the Ushers. Please note that where there is no intention listed, the Mass is offered for the Universal Church.

MONDAY **March 9, 2009**
 9:00am Teddy Osmola r/b Fred & Michelle Bohnberger
7:00pm

TUESDAY **March 10, 2009**
 9:00am Joseph Mezicco, Jr.
 r/b Joseph Mezicco, III & Tiffany Mezicco

WEDNESDAY **March 11, 2009**
 9:00am Rev. John Newton r/b People of the Parish
7:00pm

THURSDAY **March 12, 2009 (Followed by Novena)**
 9:00am

FRIDAY **March 13, 2009**
 9:00am

SATURDAY **March 14, 2009**
 9:00am Good Intentions of the People of the Parish
 4:30pm Joseph Gaughan r/b Helen & Nancy McCabe
 Andrew Ott r/b The Haas Family

SUNDAY **March 15, 2009 (10:30am Children's Mass)**
 9:00am Louis Buondonno
 r/b Daughter Rose Marie & Son Vincent
 John Dougherty r/b Florence O'Connor & Family

10:30am Howard & Clara Buffington r/b Son
 Katherine Cinelli r/b Dottie & Art Henry

***The Sanctuary Candle this week is in
 Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Gugliotta.***

If you would like to contribute to the burning of a Sanctuary Candle in memory of a loved one, you may call the Rectory. Cost is \$10.

Attendance/Collection Feb. 28/1, 2009	594 / \$6,313
Attendance/Collection March 1/2, 2008	525 / \$6,368
Ash Wednesday Collection	\$ 476
Budgeted Weekly Collection:	\$6,923
Actual Y-T-D Weekly Average:	\$5,676

Automatic E-Giving

St. Stephen Parish is providing **Electronic Giving, or eGiving**, as a simple, secure and convenient method for making contributions. The eGiving option is being used by churches throughout the country and works similar to online bill paying. You may logon to www.StStephensPennsauken.com to set up your account.



Please call the Rectory to let us know if your family member is in the hospital or homebound so that we may bring them Communion. This week remember to pray for:

Rose Alessandrone, Dolly Angelastro, Patricia Booth, Marion Borreggine, Vincent Buondonno, Dominic Caruso, Dorothy Coyle, Marge Cummings, Esther DeMarco, Jessie Dixon, Patricia Domer, Joe Flacco, Robert Gottschall, John Heininger, Jr., Jean Heller, Thomas Holmes, Sr., Jim Hutton, Rita Insley, Donna Krawchuk, Nancy Loperfido, Vincent Marchese, Marie Melchiorre, Elena Melfi, Jennifer Osborn, Edith Parrissi, Angie Pennestri, Rita Picciano, Leonard Rebilas, Rosemarie Rosolia, Raphael Rubin, William Sauer, Carmella Scrivani, Mary Jo Stedrak, Mary Terzini, Daniel Topper, Adelaide Travia, Margaret Trifaro, Anthony Vocale, Jean Wenstrom, Harry Wilson.

Ministry Schedule for March 14/15

Saturday, 4:30pm

Altar Servers: E. Stemetzki, M. Hobbs, R. Garofalo
EM's: T. Veneziani, T. Angstman, S. Eisenhardt, The Heiningers
Lectors: P. Tryson, R. McKean

Sunday, 9:00am

Altar Servers: M & C Hearn, G. Schwankert, W. McHugh
EM's: N. Schmidt, S. Marano, R. Leone, R. Davis, L. McHugh
Lectors: M. McHugh, J. Gerst

Sunday, 10:30am – Children's Mass

Altar Servers: TBA.
EM's: T. Mattera, M. Miller, B. Buffington, L. Solano, C. Otto
Lectors: TBA.

Next Special Diocesan Second Collections:

March 8, 2009 – "Rice Bowl"

March 22, 2009 – "Star Herald"

Please note: If you contributed toward last October's Star Herald collection of \$1,225, please do not feel obligated to contribute to this one. The March 22nd envelope is part of the yearly envelope program (common in all churches) to help defray our increased cost that has risen from \$3k per year to almost \$14k per year for the 700+ subscriptions. Thank you.

Stewardship Reflection

Withhold not your Stewardship

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved Son." (Genesis 22:12)

Abraham was so devoted to God that he was willing to sacrifice his only son. How does our own devotion compare? Do we withhold time, talent, and treasure from the God who sacrificed His only Son for us?

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline (856) 581-7980

This Week @ St. Stephen's

3/9-Monday-9am Mass, **7pm Mass**, 7:15pm RCIA
3/10-Tuesday-9am Mass, 7pm Rosary, **7:30pm PTA**
3/11-9am Mass, 6:30pm CCD, **7pm Mass/7pm Parish Mission**
3/12-Thursday-9am Mass/Novena, 6:15pm Youth Music, 7:15pm Choir
3/13-Friday-9am Mass, **7pm Stations**, 7:30pm YAM
3/14-Saturday-8am Men's Prayer Group, 9am Mass,
3:45-4:15pm Confession, 4:30pm Mass
3/15-Sunday-Masses: 9am & 10:30am

Stations of the Cross Themes

- 3-13 Traditional Stations 7:00 PM
- 3-20 Peace Stations enhanced by music ministry
- 3-27 Mary Stations 7:00PM enhanced by music ministry
- 4-3 Traditional Stations
- 4-10 NO EVENING STATIONS (Good Friday)

Altar Flower Donations

Anyone interested in donating flowers for the altar to mark an Anniversary, Christening or Memorial Mass, please contact Maria Haas @ 665-8393.

Heartfelt Thanks

I wanted to express my heartfelt thank you to **Mary McCarthy, Marcia Miller, Ceil McGongile, Mary Ann Meloni, Eileen Ziegler, Joey Scavuzzo, Brian Dunn, Carol Girardi, Ray Costner, John Fitzpatrick, Jim Rotondo, Sr. Bernadette and Fr. Vince** for all your help and support in the preparation for the Lenten season at St. Stephen's. **-Maria Haas**

Tuesday Night Rosary

Please join us every Tuesday at 7:00pm in the church in response to Our Lady of Fatima's request to pray the rosary for peace in the world.

St. Stephen's Prayer Line

The Prayer Line belongs to you.
If you need someone to pray for you, you are at the right place.
Contact Mary Ann @ 235-1423 for March requests.

St. Stephen's Rosary Makers

Meets every 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7pm at Stonegate.
NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME to join us March 19th!

Season of Lent

Our season of Lent began last Wednesday, and we would like to provide all of our parishioners with an opportunity to participate fully in a prayerful spirit. On the First Sunday of Lent, we ask that you take a Lenten Stone and prayer card as you leave church. Keep the stone with you daily and use it as a reminder to rid yourselves of the hardness of heart and accept Christ in your lives as we move through the forty days of Lent. Say the prayer as a part of your daily rituals, and ask God to travel with you. On Easter, return the stone and leave it in the newly blessed water to symbolize your new life in the Risen Lord. There will also be a booklet providing you with information about the season of Lent. Please take one and keep it as a reminder of all that is happening in our parish to assist you as you journey through this holy season.

Catch the Spirit by attending the Parish Lenten Mission

Since Our Holy Father dedicated this year to St. Paul, the mission will focus on the life and time of St. Paul and how he promoted social justice. The presenter is **Mary An Love**, a secular Carmelite, who has a Masters Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling and has worked in Parish Social Ministry as well as an educator and administrator. **The mission will be conducted on March 11 and March 19 at 7:00PM in the Church**

Parish Women's Retreat

A retreat & reflection morning is scheduled for **March 21 from 8:45AM – 12:00PM** for the women of the parish. Sr. Peggy Devlin will be the facilitator. **Theme: "Journey of Transformation"**

Lent 2009 Spirituality Series

Theme: So Great A Love

"A deeper personal relationship with God requires not only belief in a loving God, but the experience of that love on a feeling level."

Experiencing God's Tremendous Love, Sr. Maureen Conroy, RSM

During this Lenten Series, we will explore practical insights into the reality of God's personal and unconditional love. There will be a short presentation on the weekly theme and the use of Scripture, stories, and contemporary experiences. The evening session will be promptly at 7:30 PM and will allow time for those who would like to remain in church for personal prayer during this season of Lent.

Presenter: Sister Ruthann T. O'Mara, SSJ

Sr. Ruthann currently ministers at Our Lady of Lourdes Wellness Center in Collingswood, N. J. and resides here at St. Stephen Convent.

Wednesday Evenings: March 25 and April 1st

March 25: God's Love/Touching God's Heart

April 1: Our God's Transforming Power

Time: 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Place: St. Stephen Church (chapel)

Please call Jim Rotondo & register for this Series by March 9th.

Page Four

Knights of Columbus, Pennsauken Council, presents:

Comedy Knight - A Knight of Comedy

March 28, 2009 at St Stephen's School

Beef N Beer begins at 6:00 pm - Comedy Show at 8 pm

Featuring Headliner

Legendary Philly Comedian Grover Silcox

(Fox 29's Good Day Philadelphia & the John DeBella Show)

Also Featuring

Ventriloquist Nick Pawlow & Manualist Jim Rotondo

Tickets - \$25 per person. Limited seating.

No tickets sold at the door.

For tickets, please call

Lonnie - 856 662-6049 or George - 856 488-1980

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***Men of St. Stephen's***

Please join us for our **Men's Scripture/Prayer Group**. We meet every Saturday morning at 8am for one-half hour. The first meeting each month will be held at the Merchantville Diner on Centre Street. The remaining meetings will be held in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. Hope to see you on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Diner. **More Info: Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.**

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Gentlemen: Time Out!

Tough times? Could you use God's help? Gentlemen, you are invited to take time to relax and energize yourselves at a weekend retreat at St. Joseph's in the Hills in Malvern, PA. The retreat begins Friday, March 13th and concludes at 11am on Sunday, March 15th. Why go?

- 1. Time with God away from hectic daily schedule,**
- 2. Perspective, 3. Find new purpose**
- 4. Improve your prayer life, 5. Relax with Friends**

For more info call Joe Fagan @ 662-5908.

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***The Gift of Love***

Give the gift of Love, Romance and Togetherness. Take time to Rekindle, Renew and Restore your relationship with the person you made a covenant of love with. A Marriage Encounter Weekend is a personal and private time away for couples who care about each other. The next weekends are March 27-29 and May 15-17, 2009. For more information or to schedule a weekend, call Bob & Michelle Dooley at (800) 688-9963 or send an Email to [mrdoole@comcast.net](mailto:mrdoole@comcast.net). Visit our web page at [www.mesj.net](http://www.mesj.net).

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Helping Seniors Cope

While change can be exciting, for many seniors, change can also be frightening, particularly when it involves health and other limitations that lead to greater dependence and less control of their own lives. For the family members of a aging parent or spouse, our FREE pamphlet "Helping Seniors Cope with Change" provides a host of valuable suggestions for helping your loved one successfully cope with this challenging transition. To order your FREE brochure, call 1-877-DIOCESE, with the compliments of the Division of Health Services, Diocese of Camden.

St. Stephen's RCIA Ministry



Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic?

Have you been away from the church...and have now returned, but want to know more?

Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism; Confirmation; and Eucharist?

Have you joined us from a different background and would now like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

If any of the above questions apply to you, we would love to help you in your journey! Or, if you know of anyone who could answer YES to any of these questions, perhaps you should extend an invitation to them!

Please contact Father Vincent Orum at (856) 662-9338 or Loretta Steinmetz, RCIA Team Leader at (856) 227-4627 for more information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

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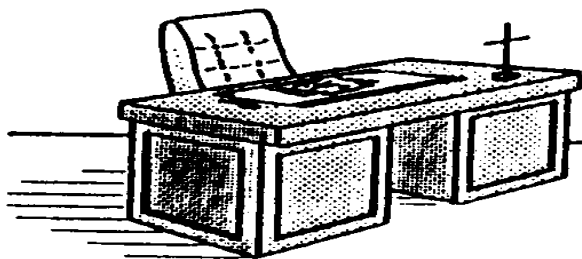
***Volunteer Needed for CCHS***

**Host Family** for Camden Catholic High School International Student, 2009 school year. Family provides room and board while earning a generous monthly \$450, tax-free stipend. If you have room in your heart & home, contact Marilena at (215) 547-8486 for details.

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"The Music Man" at CCHS

The Arts at Camden Catholic High School presents Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man". Performance dates are March 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7:30pm and March 15 at 2:00pm. Seating is reserved, ticket cost is \$10. Please call CCHS at 4 663-2247, ext. 34 for more information.



*From the Desk of
Father Vincent Orum, AJ*

Lent time: A Call to Check our Stones

We have been asked by the liturgical committee to carry a stone with us during this Lent time as a reminder to each one of us to get rid off “the hardness “of our daily lives. I hope that each one of us has gotten one to carry during the forty days journey with the Lord! The stone-imagery of one’s life is depicted in **Ezekiel 36:26-27** where God promises to cleanse Israel from her sins and bestow on her abundance of Blessings:

“For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees.”

Through our baptism, we have become the new Israel and Ezekiel 36 speaks to us directly. The stone we carry every day will remind us of the need allow the Spirit of God to regenerate us. Maybe these thoughts from the **Francis House of Prayer** entitled, **“Lent: A season for Fasting, A season for Feasting”** is a good way to reflect on us we touch our stones each day:

Lent: A Season for Fasting A Season for Feasting

FAST from judging others; FEAST on seeing Christ in all.
FAST from harsh words; FEAST on words that build up others.
FAST from discontent; FEAST on gratitude.
FAST from anger; FEAST on patience.
FAST from pessimism; FEAST on optimism.
FAST from worry; FEAST on trusting God.
FAST from complaining; FEAST on appreciation.
FAST from bitterness; FEAST on forgiveness.
FAST from criticism; FEAST on compliments.
FAST from discouragement; FEAST on hope.
FAST from self-centeredness; FEAST on compassion and service.
FAST from suspicion and lies; FEAST on the truth.
FAST from thoughts that weaken; FEAST on promises that inspire.
FAST from idle gossip; FEAST on silence with a purpose.
FAST from despair; FEAST on hope in God.
FAST from trying to II go-it alone"; FEAST on prayer.
FAST from materialism; FEAST on family and friends.
FAST from hatred and resentment; FEAST on love and forgiveness.